

## SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE SIXTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in the Lecture Room of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., Nov. 13-15, 1888, the President in the Chair. The meeting was attended by twenty Active Members, and seventeen Associate Members, making a total attendance of thirty-seven, a number considerably in excess of the attendance at any previous Congress of the Union.

The Secretary's report comprised, besides the usual statistics relating to membership, a concise review of the work of the Union during the five years of its existence, showing how great has been its influence on the progress of ornithology in North America. The membership of the Union was stated to be as follows:—Active Members, 45; Honorary Members, 25; Corresponding Members, 65; Associate Members, 159. The Union had lost by death during the year one of its founders, Dr. Joseph B. Holder,\* five Corresponding Members, and three Associate Members. The Corresponding Members were Dr. Modest N. Bogdanow † of Moscow, Mr. Harry Pryer ‡ of Yokohama, Colonel N. Prjevalski § of St. Petersburg, Count A. F. Marschall § of Vienna, and Mr. Henry Stevenson§ of Norwich, England; the Associate Members were Mr. Charles W. Beckham || of Washington, Mr. Thure Kumlien¶ of Milwaukee, Wisc., and Prof. Charles Linden\*\* of Buffalo, N. Y.

The Treasurer's report upon the finances of the Union showed for the first time a small balance in the treasury, 'The Auk' having proved self-sustaining.

The report of the Council covered various matters of business, which were later duly acted upon as noted in the department of 'Notes and News' in the present number of 'The Auk.'

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\* See Auk, Vol. V, April, 1888, p. 220.

† See Auk, Vol. V, 1888, p. 333.

‡ Ibid., p. 332.

§ For obituaries see 'Notes and News' of the present number of 'The Auk.'

|| See Auk, Vol. V, 1888, p. 445.

¶ See 'Notes and News' of the present number of 'The Auk.'

\*\* Auk, Vol. V, 1888, p. 220.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of the incumbents of the previous year, except that in the Council Mr. Thomas McIlwraith was elected as the Canadian representative, Mr Chamberlain, who had hitherto filled the position, at present living in the United States. Four Active Members were elected, as follows: Walter E. Bryant, of San Francisco, Cal.; Frank M. Chapman, Assistant in Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City; Lyman S. Foster, of New York City; Gurdon Trumbull, of Hartford, Conn. Five Corresponding Members were also elected, as follows: Anastasio Alfaro, San José, Costa Rica (Director of the Costa Rica National Museum); Sandford B. Dole, Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands; Harry V. Henson, Yokohama, Japan; Valdemar Knudsen, Kanai, Hawaiian Islands; Frederic Ringer, Nagasaki, Japan.

One hundred and ten Associate Members were elected.\*

The usual reports of progress were made by the several standing committees. Dr. Merriam, Chairman of the Committee on the Geographical Distribution and Migration of North American Birds, gave an extended account of the work as now carried on under his direction as a part of the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, very fully explaining and illustrating the methods of investigation adopted, by means of maps, diagrams, and systematically arranged data. He announced that 'Bulletin No. 2,' consisting of Prof. W. W. Cooke's 'Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley in the years 1884 and 1885,' was printed and about ready for distribution (since issued†), and that 'Bulletin, No. 1,' on the House Sparrow, was in press. Several other 'Bulletins' on special subjects are already in an advanced stage of preparation.

Dr. Coues, Chairman of the Committee on Avian Anatomy, read a report prepared by Dr. Shufeldt, Secretary of the Committee, on the work of the latter during the past year.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee on the Protection of North American Birds, Mr. George B. Sennett, Mr. Allen made a brief report of the work of the Committee, which was

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\* The names of the new Associate Members, so far as they have qualified to date, will be found in the membership lists issued with the present number of 'The Auk.'

† See the present number of 'The Auk,' p. 58.

supplemented by remarks from two other members of the committee, namely, Col. N. S. Goss of Kansas and Mr. William Dutcher of New York. Efforts were being made to influence legislation in the direction of more efficient legal protection for birds, and the Committee was also continuing its good work of enlightening the public by the dissemination of much needed information on the subject of bird protection.

In the absence of Dr. George B. Grinnell, Chairman, Mr. Dutcher read the report of the Committee appointed last year to co-operate with the Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences in procuring funds for the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of Audubon. The report stated the action of the Committee in the matter and the amount of funds raised for the object in question.

Two days of the session were wholly devoted to the presentation and discussion of scientific papers. Several of them proved of special interest, leading to protracted and profitable discussion. At the close of the third day a number were read merely by title, owing to the lack of time for their presentation in full. A list of the papers is as follows, those read simply by title being marked with a star.

The Shape of the Bill in Snail-eating Birds, by Prof. W. B. Barrows. Additions to his List of Kansas Birds, with Notes on their Habits, by Col. N. S. Goss. Notes on the Birds of the Magdalen Islands, by Dr. L. B. Bishop. The Eastern Margin of the Habitat of *Sturnella neglecta*, by Prof. J. W. McGee. Bird Notes from Little Gull Island, N. Y., by Basil Hicks Dutcher. Notes on the Destruction of Grasshoppers by Flocks of Swainson's Hawks, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y., by William Dutcher. The Flight of Birds, by Dr. Elliott Coues. Food of the English Sparrow, by Prof. C. V. Riley. The *Helminthophila* in Connecticut during the Spring of 1888, by Dr. L. B. Bishop. Notes on *Spizella arenacea*, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam. On the position of *Chamaea* in the System, by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt (read by Dr. Coues). Notes on the Nesting Habits of Leach's Petrel, by Dr. L. B. Bishop. Graphic Representation of Bird Migration, by Witmer Stone (read by Mr. Thompson). On Studying the Habits of Birds, by Ernest E. Thompson. Remarks concerning the Destruction of Multitudes of Small Birds near the South End of Lake Michigan

by a Storm which Overtook them in Migration, in May, 1888, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam. The Relationship of the Large Florida Herons, by W. E. D. Scott. Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Vicinity of Quito, by J. A. Allen. On a Collection of Birds made in Bolivia by Dr. H. H. Rusby, with Field Notes by the Collector, by J. A. Allen. \*The Booming of the Bittern, by Bradford Torrey.† \*Remarks on the Three-toed Woodpeckers, by Dr. L. Stejneger. \*Nesting Habits of Clarke's Crow, by Capt. C. E. Bendire. \*Notes on the Southern Breeding Range of *Pini-cola enucleator*, by Philip Cox. \*The Anhinga, by Col. N. S. Goss. \*The Main Divisions of the Swifts, by F. A. Lucas.† \*The Summer Birds of Berkshire Co., Mass., by Walter Faxon.†

The meeting proved, in point of attendance and in the number and character of the papers presented, the most successful thus far held, and from a social point of view left little to be desired, the Washington members giving their visitors a most cordial welcome. On Tuesday evening a reception was given them by Dr. and Mrs. Coues, and another on Wednesday evening by Dr. Merriam and Mr. Henshaw.

It was voted to hold the next meeting in New York City, on the second Tuesday in November, 1889.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

Cooke's 'Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley.'‡—This Report forms 'Bulletin No. 2' of the Division of Economic Ornithology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture—a work that has been long and "clamorously" awaited. To quote from the editor's 'Prefatory Letter,' the report "consists of two parts: (1) an introductory portion treating of the history and methods of the work, together with a general study of the subject of Bird Migration, including the influence of the weather upon the movements of birds, the progression of bird waves and causes affecting the same, the influence of topography and altitude upon migration, and the

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† Published in the present number of 'The Auk.'

‡ U. S. Department of Agriculture. | Division of Economic Ornithology. | Bulletin No. 2. | — | Report | on | Bird Migration | in the | Mississippi Valley | in | the years 1884 and 1885, | by | W. W. Cooke. | — | Edited and Revised by Dr. C. Hart Merriam. | — | Washington: | Government Printing Office. | 1888. 8vo, pp. 313, with Map.